

[Date]

Dear Parent,

The Indiana Legislature took action in 2017 to expand student access to learning options through Chapter 16 of Indiana Code 20-30. As a result, students are eligible to enroll in the Indiana course access program. The course access program is meant to augment and extend any efforts schools have already undertaken. Local schools will benefit from access to online courses vetted for quality and aligned to Indiana Academic standards. This access might offer schools who have not yet explored offering online courses for core subjects an opportunity to experiment without going through a procurement process. Indiana is the fourteenth state in the U.S. to enable statewide choice at the course level through online learning options.

The majority of the course offerings in the Indiana Course Access portal (iCAP) will be virtual options. Online learning holds great promise as an instructional approach to expand and customize learning opportunities for students. However, it is substantially different from face-to-face instruction and usually works best when thoughtful planning supports individual enrollment decisions. I encourage you to talk with your student to examine if online learning is a good fit for her or him.

To help you prepare for making the decision about whether your student has the characteristics to be successful learning online, we recommend you review the EXPLORE section of the student page on the Department of Education's iCAP webpage <https://www.doe.in.gov/icap/icap-students>. This webpage will help you prepare for a conversation with your son or daughter.

We are developing guidelines and procedures to accommodate student/parent requests to take courses through the iCAP. We are excited about this opportunity, but equally cautious given the amount of media hype and misperceptions associated with online learning, especially from students.

Please direct your questions related to online courses to Mr./Ms. _____. He/she will be able to explain the process being used by [School Name] to implement the new policies that expand online learning options for students.

Sincerely,

[Name],
[Title]
[School Name]